



WELCOME FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parent/Guardian

I would like to inform you of a number of events that have taken place since our last newsletter.

The provisional **Key Stage 3 Results** are *outstanding*.

English Level 5+ is 66%

Increase in 2 years in English of **7%**

Mathematics Level 5+ is 82%

Increase in 2 years in Mathematics of **14%**

Science Level 5+ is 80%

Increase in 2 years in Science of **18%**

Core Subject Indicator (% of Pupils having a Level 5+ in English Mathematics and Science) is **61%**. An increase in CSI in 2 years of **15%**.

These results are due to the hard work and dedication of all the staff, pupils and parents of Oakdale Comprehensive School.

We have piloted a number of new *GCSEs* for Year 11 pupils. These are: - **ALAN** (Adult Literacy and Numeracy) **TEST** and **Key Skills**.

29 pupils were entered in the ALAN Test and **24** obtained a full *GCSE* and **5** obtained a half *GCSE* equivalent qualification.

8 pupils were entered for the Key Skills Qualification worth 2 *GCSEs* and all passed.

At Key Stage 4 we have a number of **Gifted and Talented** pupils who have taken *GCSEs* early in Maths, Statistics, Welsh, RE, Sociology and Spanish.

This is a wonderful end to a successful year. We had a very good inspection in November, the highest grade possible in a review from the advisory service in June on Self Evaluation and Development planning. Building improvements have gone well, we have a new state of the art Media Room, a re-vamped Technology area and excellent new initiatives for next year's Year 7. It is a very exciting time for staff, pupils', governors, parents and the community.

The school position is very bright and I can guarantee that your child will achieve their full potential and enjoy the learning experience at Oakdale Comprehensive School.

If you wish to speak to your child's Progress Manager then please contact them here at the school.

Year 7 - Mrs E. Lincoln Year 8 - Mrs K. Conway Year 9 - Miss A. Davies
 Year 10 - Mrs P. Darknell Year 11 - Mr C. Rogers



CONTENTS:

State of the Art Multi Media Room	2
Dulux Competition Win	2
Music Scholarship Award	2
Primary Feeder Schools Festival of Sports	3
New Start for Year 7 Pupils	3
Graffiti Art Competition	4
Our School's Outstanding Boxer	4

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

2 nd Sept -	INSET Day
3 rd Sept -	Year 7 Only Skills Day
4 th Sept -	Year 7 Only Skills Day
7 th Sept -	Whole School Returns
29 th Sept -	INSET Day
8 th Oct -	Years 5 & 6 - Open Evening
HALF TERM - 26th - 30th Oct	
26 th Nov -	Annual Prize Evening
16 th & 17 th Dec -	Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 Form Tutor Days
18 th Dec -	INSET Day
END OF TERM - 21st Dec 2009 - 1st Jan 2010	
4 th Jan 2010 -	Whole School Returns



OAKDALE
Comprehensive School
Ysgol Gyfun
OAKDALE

State of the Art Multi Media Room

Here at Oakdale Comprehensive School we are proud to announce our new Multi Media Room is open and in operation. This facility will allow us to take advantage of the digital age that we are living in. It will give us the opportunity for our learners to taste how technology within the media influences the work place. We are now in the position to offer **BTec Media Studies**, and with the arrival of the new equipment it means our learners will have the benefit of the latest technology to work with and produce their projects on.



The multi media room is equipped with four new iMacs, two MacBook Pros, six digital video cameras and a colour printer all costing a combined total of around £15,000! This might seem like a lot of money, but it really puts us on the map and is easily compared to and in some cases better than the equipment that local colleges provide. Added to this is a semi professional editing package 'Final Cut Express' that is recognised in the media industry as a genuinely superb digital editing programme. You must agree that this is a very exciting time for us in the Media and Creative Arts departments.



What does the future hold for the media course? Simply, a wide range of experience and specialised knowledge that will advance learning on many levels. The skills within the course are cross curricular, and therefore will enlighten learning in other areas of school life. Not forgetting that the BTec is the equivalent to **two G.C.S.E's!** Recently Year 9 pupils who chose Media as an option visited the Ebbw Vale redevelopment site and were invited to film and record the historical events that are currently happening there. This included a workshop from a professional camera man, filming

on site and interviewing members of the development team, editing the project and burning it to DVD. These DVDs will be on public display in the near future. Needless to say, this was an excellent opportunity and experience for our future filmmakers!



In the new academic year, we are planning for guest lecturers from local independent filmmakers to show our pupils how to be successful in this rapidly up and coming area, giving them a taste of the media from a real and professional perspective.

Dulux Competition Win

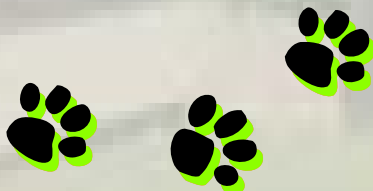
We are pleased to report that the school recently won a UK wide competition, run by the Sun Newspaper and Dulux Paint.

The community voted for our school hall to have a makeover and the Dulux Power-Bus (along with Dulux dog!) brought professional painters who teamed up with our Year 10 students as part of their qualification to paint the hall.

The hall looks much brighter now and community badminton, bowls and aikido clubs joined with the Mayor, students and teachers to open the re-decorated hall.

Well done everybody!

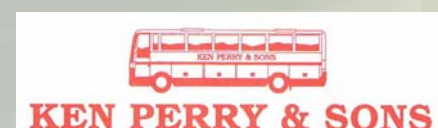
Mr M Davis
Deputy Headteacher



Music Scholarship Award 2009-10

We are pleased to be able to award two scholarships to a talented and gifted students, one in Year 7 and one in Year 10, in the area of Music. Ken Perry & Sons in association with Warburtons have agreed to fund the students' tuition fees for a whole year. The winning student will be chosen by the school and announced in a future newsletter.

Mrs R Flavin (Music)





OAKDALE
Comprehensive School
Ysgol Gyfun
OAKDALE

Primary Feeder Schools Festival of Sports

On Thursday 11th June, all of the year five and six pupils from Trinant Primary, Pontllanfraith Primary and Rhiw-Syr- Dafydd Primary met at Trinant for a sports fun day - a **Festival of Sport**.

The day was run by Oakdale P.E department and year 10 who acted as coaches and helpers: Micaela Dumayne, Gemma Oliver, Abbie Clifford, Megan Clifford, Paige Reynolds, Sally Morgan, Leigh Sharp, Michael Lindon, Rhys James-Lloyd, Lewis Hudd, Sammy Counsell, Jessica Owen, Ryan Evans, Ashleigh Parfitt, Emily Thomas, Katie Morgan, Anthony Isgrove, Gemma Clayton, Kate Hancock, Danny Waters, Hannah Miles, George Johnson, Josh Mogford, Gemma Shields, Amara Williams, Thomas Maunder, Lauren Selby-Relf, Thomas Baldwin, Kerys Woodland, Ellie Haddock, Bethan Deneen, Nathan Davies, Jessica Bray, Luke James, Joeley Braddon, Ryan Hillier, Bethan Green, Hannah Jenkins, Gina Vant, Jordan Knott, Josh Preston, Josh Evans, Adam Williams, Scott Drury, Jack Franklin, Lauren Poole, Rhys Richards and Andrew Parsons.



Pupils' went round a circuit of sport activities which included jumping, throwing, dancing, running, football, netball, rounders and more.

The pupils' also had the chance to get to know their year 10 group helper and at the end, each of the group leaders had to choose the child that they thought had tried their best and had the right attitude. These pupils then had a certificate and gift from the school.



Altogether, it was a fab day! Everybody really enjoyed it and had a lot of fun.

By
Shawni Hynam (Year 10)
Head Girl

What a New Start For Year 7 Pupils in September 2009

On September 3rd and 4th, the new Year 7 pupils will experience a real treat here at Oakdale!

On that Thursday and Friday, pupils will be given the opportunity to work with new friends from other feeder primary schools, and meet new teachers - without going to lessons! We are planning to make these first two days at Oakdale memorable, exciting, and most importantly, enjoyable.

A team of five teachers has planned many activities for the year group; activities will involve teamwork, character building, competitions, designing and skill building sessions, some achieved in school, whilst others will take place at Ynys Hywel.

In school, all pupils will complete one day's activities based on the school motto which is "Endeavour". All pupils will be asked to "endeavour" to undertake various tasks - some will be completed in an IT suite in small groups, some in the Hall working in larger teams on a Critical Skills Challenge involving newspapers, and finally to end the day, an evaluation of how pupils will "endeavour" to achieve excellence over the five years they spend with us at Oakdale. At Ynys Hywel, the rangers there have many activities to test the pupils' endurance skills; they will "endeavour" to do their best and enjoy the day!



We are confident that these two days will motivate pupils, and give them an insight into the way forward at Oakdale. We hope they will learn from their experiences over the two days, and when the pupils start to follow their timetables the following week, they will "endeavour" to do their best at all times, and achieve their full potential.

We have also planned similar activity days for the Spring Term when we will be looking at Cardiff, our capital city, and the Summer Term, when we are planning a Maths/Science Challenge day.

So lots of happy days in Oakdale for Year 7 - see you soon.



OAKDALE
Comprehensive School
Ysgol Gyfun
OAKDALE

Graffiti Art Competition

Spring term 2009 saw the launch of a 'Graffiti Art' competition. The whole school was welcomed to take part. The idea was to brighten up the lower corridor between Biology and RE by inspiring the pupils' creative skills while tapping into their knowledge and beliefs in an attempt to join these subjects. It sounds impossible I know due to such scientific and religious conflicts, but the pupils saw above and beyond any obvious obstacles and what resulted were some amazing entries.

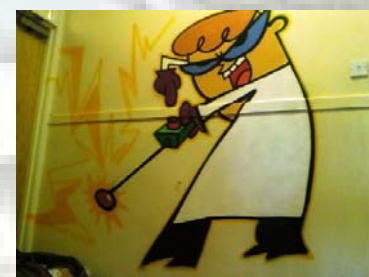


The judging proved a difficult task requiring the final decisions to be taken by the visiting graffiti artist. Many compliments were made regarding the entries and a big impression was made by the pupils as a whole. The final 8 winners were: Year 7 - Zoe Davies, Year 8 - Aaron Strickland, Corrie Barlow, Rebecca Wall, Year 9 - Lilly Langley, Hope Mann, Kirsty Willis & Jason Blanche.

The reward was to take part in a graffiti workshop led by **Bryce Davies**, a well known graffiti artist. Their designs were to be incorporated into the corridor design as well as their actual spraying of the walls. Their work was to go down in OCS history.....

On the 2nd of June, the spraying began....

" Today, I helped graffiti. Bryce the graffiti artist was awesome! We had to wear protective masks because of the paint fumes. We were going to paint the corridor for science and RE. First up was the word CREATION. I was worried that I would mess up the letters which I had too spray! But it was fine! Bryce would outline areas for us to spray! Bryce gave us techniques to make things easier! I got better as time went on and more confident....." **Zoe**



".....I have had great fun and it has been awesome. We have also learned a lot. We learned how to do graffiti art and we learned about religious signsThis experience has been great and I have made friends with people from other year groups." **Kirsty**



"The last two days have been the best! I learnt so many things being around Bryce. He taught us different languages and how to graffiti properly and gave the drawing nice effects. It was so much fun to graffiti on the school walls! Bryce let us choose colours to go on the wall, and he also let us choose the lettering and pictures." **Hope**



The final results are fantastic. Positive comments have been made by all and it's a pleasure to see the pupils take pride and ownership of their creation.

Further photos will be on the Peaceful Progress website soon.

Our School's Outstanding Boxer



As former Oakdale Comprehensive School pupil Joe Calzaghe hangs up his gloves, there is fresh Welsh Boxing talent emerging off the production line. Year 10 pupil Kody Davies has had a 2008-09 season to remember.

In an exceptionally good season Kody has won the Welsh Novice Championships at junior 60kg and also won the Welsh Open Class Championships at 70kg in May.

The icing on the cake for Kody came in June when he was selected to represent Wales in the British Championships up in Scotland where Kody brought home the bronze medal after a difficult decision by the Scottish Judges allowed the eventual winner through to the final.

Massive congratulations go out to Kody for his achievements this year. We wish him all the best for a successful 2009-10 season.

Oakdale Comprehensive School, Penmaen Road, Oakdale Blackwood NP12 0DT
 Oakdale Comprehensive School welcomes enquiries from all parents and any parent wishing to visit the school should contact the Headteacher on
 Tel: 01495-233600 Fax: 01495-233655
www.caerphilly.org.uk/oakdalecomprehensive
 Email: oakca@caerphilly.gov.uk